

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2005

(Minutes were accepted at the Dec. 7th meeting)

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:07 pm, Mr. Ferdinandi, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairperson*;
John Gregory; Deborah Lopes; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice-Chairperson*

Members Absent: Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Michael Marra; Lornette Uthman

Others Present: Brian Butler; Victoria Gailliard; Susan Paquin; Joanne Andrews; Judy Valentine; Stephanie Sullivan; Larry Gemma, Prospective Board Member

At this point in the agenda, Mr. Gregory introduced Mr. Larry Gemma from Gem Plumbing as a potential Board member.

C. **Approval of Minutes** – October 5, 2005 Regular Session Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 5th meeting was postponed until later into the agenda until a quorum was present.

D. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

Recess into Executive Session was postponed to the end of the agenda.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

Did not recess out of Regular Session at this point of the agenda.

II. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

1) Teachers' Association

There were no Teachers' Association representatives present; therefore, there was no report.

2) Teacher Assistants' Association

There were no Teacher Assistants' Association representatives present; therefore, there was no report.

3) Davies Performance Classification—Ms. Gailliard

Ms. Gailliard announced, after speaking with RIDE, that Davies performance classification is now a "high performing and improving" school, which means that over the last four years, Davies moved up seven categories. When she became Director in 2002, the school was at the bottom level "in need of improvement/insufficient progress" and today we are at the top level, the cream of the crop. Todd Flaherty, Deputy Commissioner, gave her permission to release the results to her staff before they were made public.

In addition to all of this, Ms. Gailliard received a telephone call from Mr. Krieger, the media relations person at RIDE. Each year they ask a school to host the rollout of the statewide results of the State Assessment and the Performance Classifications and they asked Davies to be the host school this year. It is a Governor's press conference with Mr. McWalters and Mr. Diprete. They would like the Board there as well, but Ms. Gailliard is inviting the students. Culinary will provide a small breakfast. This is a media event, which will be televised.

Mr. Gregory made a motion to pass a resolution by the Board of Directors commending the entire staff here at Davies. Mr. Bone seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Because it is difficult for a school to do some PR, Mr. Ferdinandi spoke with CVS's PR agency and with the Board's approval, they will put together a small PR package that will include a letter from the Board stating the school's performance changes as well as the article that was in the Sunday Providence Journal. This package will then be distributed to business and industry and stakeholders in career and technical education.

Mr. Gregory was interested in knowing how many high schools fall within the high performing category. Ms. Gailliard couldn't answer that question with the 2005 data, but with last year's results there were about 20 high schools that were "high performing and improving." With the exception of Providence's Classical High School, the other high performing high schools are like Barrington, East Greenwich, Lincoln, Smithfield, etc. They are not urban schools with the demographics and population that we have here at Davies. Davies is unique in that we are a regional school.

Dr. Segovis mentioned that he has been getting a lot of complementary comments about the Ms. Gailliard's newspaper article in the Providence Sunday Journal including from Providence's superintendent.

Mr. Ferdinandi would like to send a personalized letter from the Board to Mr. Mitchrone's family identifying the improvement of the school because he after all dedicated himself to this cause. A lot of his work came to fruition. Mr. Beaupre suggested sending one to Mr. Tanury as well. Ms. Sullivan volunteered to draft those letters.

4) School Bus Camera Policy – Mr. Butler

(See supplemental material: Supplemental Policies Governing Student Conduct on School Buses and Video Cameras in School Buses (Draft Form))

The genesis of the above is the result of Davies securing a new after-school bus contract with Laidlaw. We are not responsible of the day-to-day transportation of the students coming and going to regular classes, but after school for sports activities and correlated activities, we do. We found out that on a number of those buses that are transporting those co-curricular students, are equipped with on-board video cameras and realizing from the inherent litigation that could arise from students being photographed, recorded or otherwise, taped for later referencing for discipline. We had contacted Lincoln School Department, the ones using the cameras, and asked them what they have been doing. We then contacted Mr. Vincent Ragosta, Davies attorney, and asked him to come up with a proposal that we as a school may adopt with the blessing of the Board of Trustees.

This proposal is extremely comprehensive and has everything that he would need in it and it obviously satisfies Mr. Ragosta's requirements. The purpose of this draft is for the Board's review so that we can adopt this camera policy and then start notifying the parents and students of this new policy, and then include it into the student handbook.

Not all of the buses have cameras on them, but as time permits, there will be more and more installing them. The alternative is if the Board is uncomfortable with the policy, Laidlaw is prepared to disconnect the cameras. The advantage is you would be amazed at how many students will behave just because the camera is there.

Mr. Ferdinandi was concerned about Rule #11: "Students shall not eat and shall not consume beverages while on the bus or other vehicle." Students being transported from an athletic event will want to have something to drink. Mr. Butler is sure that provisions could be made exclusive to those particular trips, but this protects everyone from simple trips back and forth from say Lincoln.

There are some rules in this draft that Ms. Gailliard doesn't agree with so some changes will be made to be more specific to Davies' needs. Dr. Segovis suggested not eliminated Rule #11, but just add a clause "unless otherwise directed by appropriate school personnel" or something along those lines. Mr. Ferdinandi would also like to see this policy condensed.

Ms. Carroll and Mr. Butler will work on these recommendations before the Board adopts this policy.

5) High School Diploma System-Part I—Ms. Gailliard
(See the supplemental material: "Rhode Island's High School Reform Initiative", a Powerpoint Handout)

The High School Diploma System comes out of the Board of Regent's High School Regulations. Sometime last year she presented to the Board the three components of the High School Regs and in May she gave them a status report on where Davies is with these regs. The three components are High School Literacy, High School Restructuring and Proficiency-based Graduation Requirements and they were all adopted in 2003. Ms. Gailliard wanted to focus on the graduation requirements and the umbrella of that is the High School Diploma System.

Just briefly, we are at 100% compliance with the first regulation, High School Literacy with the personal literacy plans, ramp-up programs, and school-wide instruction on literacy. We are 75% in compliance with the High School Restructuring with Common Planning Time, Advisory Structure, and Professional Development, all which are included in the teachers' contract. The forth piece, the Personalized Learning Environment, we basically have with our career and tech programs, we just need to integrate the academics.

There has been a lot of discussion over the Proficiency-based Graduation Requirement over the last eight or nine years relative to the development and the rigor of what we now define as a high school diploma and what the students have to actually do to get one. The diploma we used to know is based on seat time, a certain number of earned Carnegie Units. Through the High School Summit there was concern basically from the business and industry people that students who were graduating from a high school were not prepared academically. The No Child Left Behind Act and the High School Diploma System are addressing this concern.

The number of Carnegie Units has increased. Mr. Beaupre asked if this was a college preparatory course? Yes, this is what they are basically looking to do. They want the students to be college ready, not necessarily having to go to a post-secondary institution, but when they graduate from high school they will have the ability academically to go on to a post-secondary institution.

There is a group of students, say in Special Populations who are the English language learners as well as the special ed. students, that have learning disabilities that will not enable them to become proficient or demonstrate their proficiency. So what are we going to do with them? This is a question RIDE and those at the national level cannot answer. Massachusetts gives them a form of attendance; they do not get a diploma because they do not meet the requirements for a high school diploma.

When the students take the standardize tests in Mathematics and Reading when entering Davies, we find out what their deficiencies are and we work with them to accommodate them with Special Ed. accommodations, other types of special services, or we have the built-in literacy or the other ramp-up

programs that are in place. We try to get them to the level that they can be successful here and be proficient. She knows right now that there are about 40 students out of 791 that she has a concern about with this new diploma system, but these 40 students are less than 1% of the total population thanks to Mrs. Phelps, Special Populations Coordinator, and her staff. The data shows that the students who come in at a grade 6 level, within the next 2 years, they have moved up two or three grade levels thanks to those ramp-up programs that support these students.

Mr. Beaupre asked what the percentage of students is who are dropping out because they can't handle the rigor and are giving up. Last year's dropout rate was 3.2%. The dropout rate is one of the targets for determining performance classification. There are 21 targets in all another of which is the graduation rate. The students want to be at Davies. Mr. Beaupre then asked if there was a way to identify these students before they dropout and try to intercept in some way. Ms. Gailliard knows part of the problem is some students and parents think this school is the old vocational tech. type model and once they get here, they realize it isn't. Then there are a lot of other issues that we may not have any control over.

Part II of this new diploma system is on the Peer Review process. Then the Commissioner, with a panel of other people, will review our proposal for the diploma system we want to adopt. They will either endorse it or send it back to us. The proficiency-based graduation requirements is where students have to demonstrate the knowledge and the skills that they know, and they have to demonstrate it using two multiple measures that Davies has chosen: exhibition (senior project) and portfolios.

The senior projects will be career and technical oriented. A lot of our kids with the School-to-Career program and some of the partnerships that we have developed with the internships and job-shadowing, etc., have already been doing this. They are going out into the field; they are working with our partners (RIDE is calling them mentors) and we give them some experience in the career area of their choice. There is going to be a project that is going to be a part of the Exhibition. That project is where they will have to demonstrate proficiency in English with a written report; they are going to have to be able to demonstrate that they can communicate, articulate well with an oral presentation; they are going to have to demonstrate that they can use technology as a tool with a PowerPoint presentation, and they are going to have to go in front of a panel and explain how they did the project from A to Z.

The Peer Review Team has to provide RIDE with an outline on how they are going to follow these kids, collect the data, and determine that they are proficient. Dr. Segovis asked if money was going to be added to our budget to do this, "no." So we are going to have to craft a position? Ms. Gailliard has already done it, a Special Technology Instructor, who will be taking care of portfolios, the exhibitions and the technology. She previously was the Digital Imaging instructor who has a wealth of knowledge in technology and the portfolios are based on what she is certified in. She will be housed in the area that was previously IKON's space. She will be working with the

students from grade 10-12 and she is going to start working on the technology piece: Powerpoint presentations and portfolios. By the time they graduate they will have the skills that they need. She will also be collecting the data, handling all of the portfolios and working with the tech teachers on the exhibitions.

We are in the planning stages right now. There is a staff of about 10-15 who are members of the Structures Committee that are working on that as we speak.

This is a very complex system and Ms. Gailliard feels we are in excellent shape because we have been doing a lot of it already with the co-op placements, internships, and job-shadowing. All we need to do is to fine tune it and make sure the kids are able to demonstrate the content knowledge in the English, the mathematics and in the science.

Judy Valentine, Davies new Supervisor of Academic Instruction, is working with the Dept. of Ed., and she is going to be one of the Peer Review support people. So we are getting the information first hand, what we need to do, what they are looking for, and when we are designing the program, it will be put together in such a way that when our outline is submitted, RIDE will endorse it.

Mr. Gregory is concerned about the funding to support this system. This Board is not a school committee in an affluent community that can say, "Yeah, we will fund it." We are not an urban school committee where we can say, "help us out because we have a lot of challenges like Providence." Ms. Gailliard is always telling the staff that she has to rob Peter to pay Paul and they will say that Peter must be poor by now. It's a matter of shuffling around what we currently have and it has always been that way. You need to have a creative mind to put together what we need to provide the services for the students and being compliant what the State is requesting. That is what it is all about in education. This is a big concern about the NCLB, a federal mandate with no funding.

Ms. Sullivan gave an example what a senior project is and emphasized that they are being done across the country. Someone in our woodworking program is very interested in Shaker design furniture. The tech teacher or someone in the School to Career office would help him/her find someone that manufactures Shaker furniture. That student would go and work with that mentor who would show him how to design a Shaker table (for example). The mentor would give him some pointers and the student will in turn do a big research paper on where did Shaker furniture come from, what was the origin, why did they use certain types of wood, and so on. This whole thing is then wrapped together in a presentation, and the portfolio covers the research paper, the reflections, what was learned from the mentor, and then the student is ready to present the Shaker table.

- 6) Statewide Initiative on Restructuring Career & Tech. Educ. —Ms. Gailliard
This is an FYI for the Board to keep them abreast of what is going on because they are probably going to be approached by the stakeholders,

members of the legislative body, and the State House. Last year, Rep. Crowley and members of the House Finance Committee did site visits at many of the comprehensive high school and tech centers including Davies. From what he observed, he has a major concern about career and tech education in general in RI. At the end of last year at the close of session, the committee allotted \$400,000 to the Dept. of Educ. to assess and evaluate career and tech. education because he feels there isn't enough out there. Students are not getting the opportunity to get involve in C&T educ. With \$100,000 off the top, he wants them to look into opening another Met Center on Aquidneck Island, and with the \$300,000, an RFP that should be coming up shortly from RIDE, evaluate the criteria that have been set for technical programs as well as the program approval process. Finally they want to do two Davies type schools somewhere in RI.

There are currently eight career and tech centers in the State. If a district does not have one, the students are bused to one that is closest and offers the program of interest. Unlike Davies, the students do a week-about where they have C&T instruction one week, and go to the host, comprehensive high school for their academic instruction. Davies is all under one roof and that is what makes Davies so successful in integrated the two.

7) Outreach and Awareness Program 05-06 —Ms. Gailliard

This program began the week before this meeting. It is the program where the Guidance Counselors go out to the middle schools of our sending districts to recruit 9th and 10th graders. On November 15th we are having our Future Student Night when the prospective students and parents who are interested in Davies get to see the school.

III. Business Agenda

A. **Finance Report**

There was no Finance report at this time

B. **Human Resources Report**

This report was deferred to Executive Session.

IV. Return to Routine

C.. **Approval of Minutes** – October 5, 2005 Regular Session Minutes

Mr. Beaupre made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 5th meeting, Mr. Gregory seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

D. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

At 6:15 pm, Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Ms. Lopes seconded the motion and all were in favor.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

At 6:33 pm, Mr. Gregory made a motion to return to regular session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation

and personnel issues. Mr. Bone seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Gregory made a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential; Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mr. Gregory made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation to nominate Mr. Larry Gemma as a Davies Board of Trustees member. Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

V. Adjournment:

At 6:34 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

VI. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled on January 4, 2006